

Tippecanoe County Family Court Project 2005 Juvenile Drug Treatment Court

Basic Information

2005 County Population: 152,848
County Seat: Lafayette
Judicial Officers: Judge Loretta Rush
Judge Faith Graham
Project Implementation: June 2004

Juvenile Drug Court Personnel

Judge, Prosecutor, Public Defender, Juvenile Probation, Purdue Pharmacy, Cary Home for Children, Treatment Providers represented by Wabash Valley Hospital, Alpine Clinic, Community and Family Resource Center, Turning Point Counseling, Lafayette Police Department and Case Management.

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Implementation

Tippecanoe County's "family focused" Juvenile Drug Treatment Court was first implemented as a pilot program in June of 2004. It became fully operational upon obtaining its provisional certification from the Indiana Judicial Center in February of 2005 and received its full certification in August of 2005.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Tippecanoe County Juvenile Drug Treatment Court is to reduce juvenile crime and drug use of non-violent youth offenders through intensive judicial supervision, community services and treatment of children and families thereby strengthening juvenile and family functioning and community safety.

Purpose and Philosophy

The purpose of the Drug Court is to provide substance abusing and dependent juvenile offenders and their families access to long-term treatment services while under the strict supervision of the Drug Court.

The Drug Court takes a non-adversarial team approach working as a team with offenders and their families to reduce illegal drug use and criminal activity among Drug Court participants. Team members include the Drug Court judge, the prosecutor, public defender, probation officers, law enforcement, and treatment providers.

The Drug Court provides an innovative alternative to the traditional, fragmented method of handling criminal cases by uniting the criminal justice and treatment services in an effort to break the cycle of drug-driven criminal behavior. Through this approach the Drug Court team is able to encourage substance free behavior by holding all clients accountable for their behavior and performance while working to build the developmental assets of each youth and family.

The program includes:

- Scheduled and random drug testing
- Intensive judicial supervision through court hearings
- Intensive Probation supervision
- Individual counseling
- Family counseling
- Drug abuse treatment
- Community Enrichment
- Incentives
- Sanctions
- School, employment and community supervision and monitoring

The Juvenile Drug Treatment Court is a strength based program that utilizes the 40 Developmental Assets approach throughout every aspect of the program. It is a four phase program with participation ranging from 12-18 months. Through intensive supervision, wrap around services including case management, group, individual and family therapy, as well as connections to numerous enrichment activities such as music, art, recreation, life skills, employment and educational opportunities, the program strives for each participant to work towards the following goals:

- To learn to be alcohol and drug free
- To learn better life coping skills
- To adjust to a drug and alcohol free lifestyle
- To develop a non-criminal pattern of living
- To enhance employment skills through vocational training and educational pursuits
- To increase social skills and self esteem
- To learn warning signs of relapse and develop a relapse prevention plan
- To accept responsibility for financial obligations and learn budgeting skills
- To develop time management skills

Eligibility, Target Population and Numbers Served

The target population of the Tippecanoe Juvenile Drug Court includes minor male and females offenders residing in Tippecanoe County between the ages of 13-16 years of age at the time of the initial hearing. Candidates must demonstrate a substance abuse issue

indicative of further use or abuse of chemical substances or further delinquent or criminal activity.

Offenders who shall not be considered are those who may be charged with: violent offenses, dealing or manufacturing offenses, any offense involving a deadly weapon, sexual offenses or any other offense or series of offenses that the Drug Court Team may deem inappropriate.

Since implementation, the Juvenile Drug Treatment Court has serviced 30 participants which included 5 terminations and 6 graduations and currently has 19 participants in the program. Of those 30 participants, 64% came from single family homes, 30% have at least one parent who also has substance abuse issues, 27% have family involved in multiple litigation, 27% with co-occurring mental health issues, 24% with parental conflict, 30% have educational issues and 54% with behavioral issues.